

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-07 NRC-05 FEAE-00 DODE-00
ERDA-05 SS-15 PM-04 SP-02 /093 W
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P R 271555Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8000
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 7539

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AORG, APER, IAEA, PARM
SUBJ: STRENGTHENING IAEA SAFEGUARDS DEPARTMENT

REF: (A) STATE 122386, (B) MOSCOW 4361

SUMMARY: MOROKHOV ARGUED IN STRONG TERMS THAT US SHOULD LIVE UP TO THE "COMMITMENT" WHICH AMBASSADOR TAPE SUPPOSEDLY GAVE MOROKHOV THAT THE COMMUNIST STATES IN IAEA WOULD NOMINATE THE CHIEF OF ONE OPERATIONS DIVISION OF THE SAFEGUARDS DEPARTMENT AND THAT THE US WOULD SUPPORT THEIR CANDIDATE. HE OBJECTED TO US "INTERFERENCE" IN VIENNA IN THE SELECTION OF THE "SOCIALIST CANDIDATE". CHARGE IN REPLY USED TALKING POINTS IN REF A AND REPEATED OUR SUPPORT FOR THORSTENSEN CANDIDACY. NEVERTHELESS, MOROKHOV PERSISTED IN HIS POSITION AND IS CLEARLY MAKING A POLITICAL POINT OF THE BARABAS CANDIDACY. END SUMMARY.

1. SCAE DEPUTY DIRECTOR MOROKHOV OPENED MEETING WITH CHARGE MAY 27 BY DELIVERING VERY STRONG STATEMENT THAT THE US AND THE SOVIET UNION HAD AGREED IN A CONVERSATION BETWEEN HIMSELF AND AMBASSADOR TAPE THAT ONE OF THE TWO CANDIDATES FOR CHIEFS OF THE FIRST AND
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SECOND OPERATIONS DIVISIONS WOULD COME FROM "THE WESTERN STATES" AND ONE FROM THE "SOCIALIST STATES." HE STATED THAT FOR THIS REASON THE USSR HAD NOT "INTERFERED" WITH THE "WESTERN CANDIDATE", HAGINOYA, FROM JAPAN AND THAT HE EXPECTS THAT THE US WILL SUPPORT THE "SOCIALIST CANDIDATE," BARABAS, FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA. UNFORTUNATELY, HE CONTINUED,

RECENTLY IN VIENNA THE US HAS BEEN WORKING TO HAVE THE "SOCIALIST CANDIDATE" CHANGED. EH WISHED, HE STATED, TO SAY THAT BARABAS WAS STILL THE "SOCIALIST CANDIDATE" AND THAT HE WILL BE A "MOST EFFECTIVE" DIRECTOR, WHO WILL BE ABLE TO WORK WELL WITH THE OTHER CHIEFS OF THE DIVISIONS IN THE SAFEGUARDS DEPARTMENT.

2. MOROKHOV SAID THAT THERE IS "NO NEED FOR A CONFRONTATION" ON THIS QUESTION, BUT THAT HE CONSIDERED THE PRESENT POSITION REPRESENTED AN UNFAVORABLE "CHANGE" WHICH AMOUNTED TO "RENEGING" ON A COMMITMENT. THE CHOICE OF A "SOCIALIST CANDIDATE" IS, HE STRESSED, A QUESTION FOR THE "SOCIALIST STATES" TO DECIDE AND "INTER-FERENCE BY THE US" IS "MORALLY AND LEGALLY INCORRECT."

3. CHARGE REPLIED THAT US IS VERY INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING SAFEGUARDS DEPARTMENT AND THAT WE HAVE SUPPORTED STRONG PEOPLE FOR POSITIONS IN IT. DISCLAIMING AND KNOWLEDGE OF PREVIOUS "AGREEMENTS", CHARGE REITERATED U.S. SUPPORT FOR THORSTENSEN TO HEAD THE OPERATIONS DIVISION EXPLAINING THAT WE CONSIDER IT IMPORTANT THAT ONE OF THE TWO DIRECTORS OF THE OPERATION DIVISIONS SHOULD HAVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE IN THE AGENCY. THORSTENSEN HAD SUCH EXPERIENCE AND THIS WAS VERY IMPORTANT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF INSPECTOR GENERAL ROMETSCH'S DEPARTURE NEXT YEAR. IN THIS REGARD, HE STATED, IT WOULD BE THE HOPE OF THE US

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THAT SOMEONE FROM THE SAFEGUARDS DEPARTMENT WOULD BE QUALIFIED TO TAKE ON MORE RESPONSIBILITY WHEN ROMETSCH LEAVES.

4. MOROKHOV INITIALLY TOOK THIS STATEMENT TO MEAN THAT WE WERE PROPOSING THAT ONE OF THE TWO DIVISION CHIEFS MOVE UP TO BECOME INSPECTOR GENERAL ON ROMETSCH'S DEPARTURE AND OBJECTED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS ALREADY LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES TO REPLACE ROMETSCH AND THEY DID NOT INCLUDE THE OPERATION DIVISION CHIEFS. CHARGE CORRECTED MOROKHOV, SAYING THAT WE WERE NOT PROPOSING THAT ONE OF THESE MEN NECESSARILY REPLACE HIM, BUT SIMPLY THAT BECAUSE ROMETSCH IS LEAVING IT IS MORE THAN EVER IMPORTANT THAT THE CANDIDATE FOR THE OPERATIONS DIVISION HAVE EXPERIENCE IN THE IAEA.

5. MOROKHOV RESPONDED BY FIRST STRESSING THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS SUPPORTING THE US CANDIDATE

FOR THE EVALUATION POST, AND THEN BY REPEATING HIS OPINION THAT BARABAS WOULD BE "COMPETENT AND EFFECTIVE" IN THE POST. HE CITED BARABAS' WORK WITH THE SOVIET UNION ON SAFEGUARD MATTERS AND SAID HE KNEW THE CANDIDATE PERSONALLY. HE INDICATED THAT THE SOVIET UNION POSITION WAS FIRM, BUT THAT WE COULD CONSULT FURTHER ON THE MATTER. CHARGE INDICATED THAT WE ARE PLANNING TO RECOMMEND A STRONG CANDIDATE FOR THE EVALUATION POST.

6. COMMENT: MOROKHOV WAS MUCH STERNER IN TONE AND LANGUAGE THAN HE WAS WHEN HE FIRST RAISED THIS SUBJECT WITH US IN MARCH (REFTEL B). IN PARTICULAR HE APPEARED TO REACT MOST FORCEFULLY TO: (A) WHAT HE THOUGHT WAS "INTERFERENCE" IN VIENNA BY THE US IN THE SELECTION OF THE "SOCIALIST CANDIDATE"; AND

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(B) WHAT HE FELT WAS US "RENEGING" ON A COMMITMENT. HIS USE OF WORDS SUCH AS "CONFRONTATION" "INTERFERENCE", "MORALLY AND LEGALLY INCORRECT", AND "RENEGING" ARE QUITE STRONG FOR HIM AND SEEM TO SHOW THAT HE IS PREPARED TO MAKE THIS A POLITICAL ISSUE BETWEEN US. HE WAS ALSO QUITE POINTED IN HIS COMMENT ABOUT SOVIET SUPPORT FOR WHATEVER CANDIDATE WE MIGHT PROPOSE FOR THE EVALUATION POST, AND THEREFORE, BY IMPLICATION, SAYING HE EXPECTED US TO ACCEPT WHOEVER THE "SOCIALIST CANDIDATE" WAS. HE DID NOT MENTION ANY OTHER POSSIBLE "SOCIALIST CANDIDATE" (E.G. BERANEK OR KLIK) BY NAME, BUT CLEARLY, NO ONE OTHER THAN BARABAS IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIM AT THIS TIME.
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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 27-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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